

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4 and 12 - 14 have been amended. Claims 15 - 17 have been added. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments or added claims, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 17 are now in the application.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action dated August 10, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1, 2, and 10 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Malamud et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0142123; hereinafter, "Malamud") in view of Matsushita (U. S. Patent 6,049,340; hereinafter, "Matsushita"). Paragraph 6 of the Office Action states that Claims 3, 5, and 7 - 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Malamud in view of Matsushita and further in view of Petropoulos et al (U.S. Pub. No. 20030146939; hereinafter, "Petropoulos"). Paragraph 7 of the Office Action states that Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Malamud in view of Matsushita and further in view of Krause (U.S. Patent 6160554). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended their independent Claims 1, 2, 13, and 14 herein to more clearly specify limitations of their claimed invention. As amended, these claims specify that the "representation [over which a virtual sensor portion is positioned/dragged] is at least partially viewable through a center of the virtual sensor portion". See, for example, p. 6, lines 11 - 13 of Applicants' specification, as well as element 110 in Fig. 1 and the examples of use thereof in Figs. 2 and 3.

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Applicants respectfully submit that Malamud teaches a “conventional cursor” and a cursor having a pointing arrow tip that “obscures” content over which it is placed. An electronic search of the Malamud text finds at least 5 references to “conventional cursor”, and at least 25 references to “obscure”. With regard to the conventional cursor, see, for example, paragraph 0052, explaining that “a conventional cursor arrow” 35C is shown in Fig. 2E, rather than “a conventional cursor arrow and an information box”, since folder 35A “does not have any additional information”. With regard to a cursor having a pointing tip that obscures content, see, for example, paragraph 0044, which has 4 separate references thereto. These 4 references discuss (1) Figs. 2A - 2C and Figs. 2P1 - 2P3; (2) Figs. 2I - 2N; (3) Figs. 2Q1 - 2Q5; and (4) Figs. 2P3 and 2P2. In all cases, these figures illustrate the pointing cursor arrow obscuring any content over which it is placed.

By contrast, Applicants’ “virtual sensor portion” has a center area through which a representation of content (such as a hyperlink that represents a Web page) is viewable, as demonstrated by the above-cited references to Applicants’ specification and drawings.

Matsushita uses a conventional pointing arrow cursor in some instances (see, for example, 3ba of Fig. 11 and 142 of Figs. 14 - 15) and in other instances, uses a cross-hair cursor. The cross-hair cursor is illustrated at 54 in Figs. 6 - 7, and comprises intersecting lines 54a and 54b. See col. 7, lines 55 - 58. However, just as Malamud’s “obscuring” pointing arrow tip does not allow a representation of content to be viewable through its center area, Matsushita’s intersecting lines have no center area through which a representation of content is viewable —

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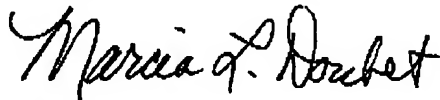
and neither Malamud nor Matsushita teach, nor suggest, viewing anything through a center of their cursors.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 2, 13, and 14 are patentably distinct from Malamud and/or Matsushita. Dependent Claims 3 - 5 and 7 - 12 are therefore deemed patentable over the cited references by virtue of (at least) the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejection.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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